

## The Danish Islands

When the United States senate in 1867 failed to ratify the treaty negotiated by secretary Seward of the department of state for the purchase of the Danish West Indies, the members of the body showed lack of foresight. The islands, three in number, St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John, have an area of only 138 square miles and the population is small and dwindling. But these Danish possessions, lying east of Porto Rico and on a great ship route to the Panama canal, have much strategic value. With Porto Rico they command an important gateway to the Caribbean. The port of St. Thomas has a fine harbor.

Another effort made by the United States in 1902 to acquire the Danish West Indies, John Hay being then secretary of state, failed because of the Danish parliament's rejection of the agreement, under which title was to be transferred. Now, however, the islands are in a bad way and the planters and other inhabitants are eager to come under the American flag. As sugar growing is their chief occupation it may be assumed they will prosper under American rule.

In view of the greater appreciation today of the importance of these islands to the United States it is to be supposed that the senate will place no obstacles in the way of their acquisition in case the diplomatic officers of the government are able to lay before that body another agreement with the Danish government for their purchase on fair terms. Copenhagen dispatches, however, deny that the sale is now under consideration.

If the public only knew the way rumors get started along the Mexican border, it would sympathize with a newspaper that tried to get things right. For instance: A story is circulating and many people credit it, that Saturday night after the Fort Bliss fires, troops gave chase to two men in an automobile across the plains east of the fort and that near the school of mines, the soldiers were attacked by a large force of Mexicans and fought for half an hour. The discharge of cartridges in the fire, presumably gave rise to the report. There was no other foundation for the report.

This is the real El Paso spring weather. They switched on another brand for a few days.

## School Gardens

The idea of school gardens and school garden instruction and work is delightful but difficult to carry out. It is difficult to get started because public schools must be run largely on tradition. Yet there is probably no influence that could be started in a child's life that is surer to benefit his health, multiply his joy capacity, make him friends with facts, and shrive his soul, than interesting him in garden work.

Washington has been working out a public school gardening course and public school gardens for ten years, and has arrived at some very happy and proud and profitable results. A start was made with only the high enthusiasm of one teacher for capital to finance the effort. After she had well begun, bits of money slowly filtered in until a small fund called the Public Gardens fund is available for purchase of fertilizers and tools, and for small cash prizes to successful flower and vegetable raisers. Washington now has regular school garden work and regular instruction in soil preparation, planting, pruning, debudding, fertilizing, cultivating, and all the fundamental ideas of successful gardening. There is a small equipment of tools, and there are four big school gardens, one connected with the normal school and one with a negro school.

In the big garden plots the children are assigned a strip as far as the land will go, and are allowed to have whatever vegetables or flowers they raise on it. From many of the school yards flowers are regularly sent to the hospitals, a free gift from the willing children to the sick and wretched of the city. Thousands of penny packets of seeds are sold the children, and home gardens are discussed and encouraged; the pupil gardeners bring their troubles with blight or cut worms to school to talk over with teacher, who becomes more of an authority than ever as she helps out with this work in which children are so ardently interested—making things grow.

The flowers that are their own wards, and vegetables and fruits that their hands are responsible for, are childhood's great treasure and anchors for grownup happiness.

In the summer vacations the volunteers who take charge of the school flower beds are always many times

more numerous than the hours of garden duty that can be assigned.

El Paso has plenty of school problems already, but one nevertheless would like to see the public and home garden school education and work, and seed and plant distribution started here. Things grow so happily, so wonderfully here. If one school could begin garden work, an hour or so a week for each class, the plants and seeds at the end of the season would start four or eight schools, and every school would be the distributing center for garden ideas and plants and seeds, and cuttings, so that in a few years there would not be many bare and untidy back yards in town. There would be gardens, and the youngsters would thrive on beauty, outdoor work, facts, and miracles.

The unfolding of the plant from the seed or the bulb, the lifting up of each leaf perfect in its pattern designed when the world was young, the miracle of the flower bud in the sun changing into the wide open brilliant flower, the ripening of the seed as the flower perfects its beauty and falls, the seeds themselves safe in their pockets and vases and pouches waiting the day, are lessons in life and hope—all the better for never being put in words, never dimmed in the ears, but truly learned by heart by the child.

Any one who has and keeps a garden from spring until spring again, watching the four appointed seasons and the work of wind and rain and sun, and the energy and plan held in the tiny seed or bulb or roots, is blessed by the miracle of life.

Volunteers and militia are all right for a second defense army for the nation, but for quick action, we need a big army of trained regulars. There is nothing in the world proportionately equal to the United States regular army.

If the fires at the Fort started accidentally, it seems strange that there should have been two similar accidents on the same evening. If they were incendiary, it seems a bit more strange how the incendiaries could have got past the guards into the post to start them.

At last a usefulness has been discovered for the "Big Bend." It is a good place to train United States troops in active service.

El Paso is fortunate in having a Cloudercroft.

## Service From Sinecures

Mayor Mitchell of New York has shown how sinecures may be made of use to the public. The position of city chamberlain of New York is a sinecure. It pays \$12,000 a year and the duties are very light. Under Tammany administration the practice was to appoint as chamberlain some politician of influence. The first appointee of mayor Mitchell to the position was Henry Bruere, former director of the bureau of municipal research.

Mr. Bruere has continually recommended that the position of chamberlain be abolished, but the state legislature has failed to act on the recommendation. While he held the position Mr. Bruere used his time in carrying on studies of governmental problems for the benefit of the mayor and other municipal authorities. Mr. Bruere having resigned the position, mayor Mitchell has named another man whose specialty is public utility regulation. The man is Milo Roy Maltbie, who served as a member of the public utilities commission under governor Hughes.

The purpose of the mayor in appointing Mr. Maltbie to a position which pays a large salary and calls for little work is to utilize his time as a public utility expert for the city.

With the right kind of men in public office even the sinecures can be made of value to the public. But the one proper method of dealing with sinecures is to abolish them.

At least, we are getting started towards a regular army. Let us hope some future congress will complete the work and give us enough men to make the country safe from invasion.

We could build a wall around the Rio Grande valley and live without the rest of the world. That's the sort of country we have here.

El Paso always does it best. The El Paso militia company at San Antonio is the biggest and most efficient in camp.

Although El Paso failed to get into the Rio Grande association league, we still have a pretty good brand of baseball in the local city league.

## Aiming at Lasting Peace

In the announcement of the meeting in Washington on May 26 of the American branch of the League to Enforce Peace—over which meeting ex-president Taft is to preside—there is recognition of the fact that peace rests upon force. The league, it is declared, is not a stop-the-war movement, an anti-preparedness organization, or a peace-at-any-price endeavor. It proposes that peace be maintained after the present war by the use of economic and military force.

Throughout the period of recorded history, say the officers of the league, such peace as has been established was kept and its area widened in only one way. Individuals have combined their efforts to suppress violence in the local community. Communities have cooperated to maintain the authoritative state and to preserve peace within its borders. States have formed leagues of various kinds or have cooperated in other ways to establish peace among themselves. "Always peace has been made and kept, when made and kept at all, by the superior power of superior numbers acting in unity for the common good."

The only trouble is, that neither superior numbers nor superior power are invariably right in this world.

Brevity is the soul of wit, and while too much brevity in manners is most unmanly, a reasonable, tempered, kindly brevity in telephoning and brevity in business notes is politeness pure and crystallized. Brevity in writing is difficult enough, to say just the right thing and stop; but brevity in telephoning, to give greeting, say what is necessary, and stop with a polite word, is even more difficult. Yet every one realizes that long telephoning is absolutely exhausting. It wears one out without getting anywhere and is contrary to the proper use of the talking wires. Brief yet polite telephoning is not cultivated as it should be.

The roads are good and the country is calling. This is the ideal time for automobilism.

Some of the published maps of the "Big Bend" said would make a geographer write in agony.

Cloudercroft time is almost here.

## Shakspeare Was Short, High Waisted Man Wrote Much Poetry Needing Expurgation

by HOWARD L. RANN.

THREE hundred years ago William Shakspeare died at the age of 52 years, having written more poetry that had to be expurgated with a pair of fire-tongs than any other man of his age. There has not been so much demand for Shakspeare's works since they were expurgated, but they can be read in a select company to better advantage, without causing a deep purple blush to break out on the forehead of the reader ever and anon.

Shakspeare was a short, high waisted man with a thick head of hair which he wore on all occasions. His parents were poor people and kept no books in the house except a river-poll almanac and a mail-order catalogue, and it was from such humble sources as these that William secured the plots and language for some of his best plays. When we look at Shakspeare and see how little education he had and yet what noble use he made of it, particularly in the sonnet line, and then compare him with the average college graduate, we realize how much money is being wasted on higher education in this country.



His parents were poor people and kept no books in the house except a river-poll almanac and a mail-order catalogue.

Shakspeare was attracted to the stage before he began to write poetry. He became an accomplished actor, and doubled in brass with great success. The English stage at that time was in a low state of morals, and Shakspeare decided to write a series of plays that would pass the national board of censorship. Some people who object to Shakspeare's racy and pungent vocabulary have since tried to make out that Shakspeare never wrote anything but due bills and love letters filled with passion and poor spelling, and insist that his laurels should be placed on the bulging brow of Lord Bacon. This is called the Baconian theory, and it ranks fully as high as the theory of non-resistance in Europe.

Shakspeare ran a good deal to blank verse, and he also wrote considerable blank-verse blank verse in the round Spenserian hand of the period. He was a prolific writer, and nobody has ever successfully imitated his style without getting into trouble with the post-office department. Nobody can read Shakspeare in the original without being a better man and endorsing the pure food act.

Shakspeare was the greatest literary genius of all time, and the farther we get away from him the brighter his genius shines.

(Protected by Adams Newspaper Service)

## DANCING AT THE PIGGY CONCERT

Mrs. Stevens to Entertain the Guests Between Musical Numbers.

Interpersed between the splendid musical numbers that will form the concert to be given Tuesday night by Mr. and Mrs. Hilo Pichler and Miss Margaret Buckler, assisted by the T. M. C. A. chorus, in the Texas Grand theater, will be character dances, performed in costume. Mrs. Margaret Buckler will dance a Spanish character dance, "La Jota," to the music of "La Madre del Cordero." Miss Elizabeth White and Jack Thompson will give an Oriental character dance. A pantomime dance, "Jack and Jeannette," will be danced by Mrs. Stevens and Miss Dorothy Mitchell. A group of girls from the Lamar school, directed by Mrs. Rocco Resta, will dance an ethnic dance, "Le Secret," and a group of girls from the high school physical training classes will dance an ethnic ballet, "The Blue Danube."

## SHERIFF HAS NO REPORT OF TROUBLE AT SIERRA BLANCA

No appeal for protection and no report of an attack by Mexican bandits on settlers in the vicinity of Sierra Blanca was received by the sheriff's office here up to 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, according to sheriff Edwards. A rumor was circulated that bandits threatened a raid on ranches along the river in that vicinity.

A telegram was received at 2:45 this afternoon by sheriff Edwards from county commissioner J. M. Walling, which said that the rumor of a threatened raid was being investigated by Sierra Blanca citizens, but that quiet prevailed in that section and no foundation had been discovered for the story.

## UNIVERSITY CLUB TO TAKE ACTION ON TRAINING CAMP

At the luncheon of the University club to be held in the rooms of the club in the Paso del Norte hotel Tuesday at 12:15 p. m., action will be taken in regard to the enrollment of members of that organization in the citizens' military training camp at Fort Bliss in August. A full attendance of the club is looked for by secretary George Robertson.

## VILLAREAL DENIES HE INCITED RAID ON TEXAS

New York, May 15.—Gen. Antonio I. Villareal, who declares he is "persona non grata" with both Carranza and Villa and that he is a political refugee in the United States because of his efforts to maintain national honor and dignity in his native country, issued a statement here today denying any participation in the Texas border raids.

Benjamin H. Throppe, a young millionaire, is now a full fledged member of the police force of Scranton, Pa.

DEAR MR. KABIBBLE  
MY FIANCE HAS NEVER  
KISSED ME—WHAT CAN  
BE HIS REASON?

I WILL ANSWER IMMEDIATELY  
AFTER I RECEIVE YOUR  
PHOTOGRAPH

## OPHELIA



## ABE MARTIN



When you read what it costs some candidates 't' git a nomination you can't help wonderin' what it's goin' 't' cost 'em 't' git elected. One good thing about 't' girl's high shoes is that they don't have 't' stoop 't' tie 'em.

(Protected by The Adams Newspaper Service)

Adultery of America to be held at Philadelphia in June.

## No Dimmers? Traffic Men Will Catch You East Texans Show Interest In Pass City

INSTRUCTIONS have been issued to motorcycle officers and all traffic men to arrest automobiles not equipped with headlight dimmers, as this is in violation of the recent ordinance passed by the city council.

"I am very deeply impressed with your city and its people," said H. H. Hiley, of Chicago, who is here gathering data for the Motor Age. "I have visited almost every city in this country and only a short time ago returned from France. You people have the appearance of refinement. Your men are courteous, and they are hustlers. Your women are the classiest I have ever seen, not even barring the beautiful women of France. El Paso is the most wide awake town in the west today, and I have been unable to discover any signs of poverty here."

"The prospects are very bright for the development of the East Texas lands," said W. L. Pollard, of Houston. "Cass, Martin and other counties in the northeastern part of the state have high grade iron ore in boundless quantities and every now and then plans for development come to light. Just the other day a New York company was chartered under the laws of Delaware to purchase and exploit one land."

This company was incorporated for \$100,000 and operations on a big scale are contemplated. Whether the ore is to be shipped east or whether the smelting will be done in Texas has not been made known, but several efforts have been made in late years to build smelters on the Texas coast and the plans of the new company may contemplate blast furnaces in Texas."

"I am very deeply impressed with your city and its people," said H. H. Hiley, of Chicago, who is here gathering data for the Motor Age. "I have visited almost every city in this country and only a short time ago returned from France. You people have the appearance of refinement. Your men are courteous, and they are hustlers. Your women are the classiest I have ever seen, not even barring the beautiful women of France. El Paso is the most wide awake town in the west today, and I have been unable to discover any signs of poverty here."

"The prospects are very bright for the development of the East Texas lands," said W. L. Pollard, of Houston. "Cass, Martin and other counties in the northeastern part of the state have high grade iron ore in boundless quantities and every now and then plans for development come to light. Just the other day a New York company was chartered under the laws of Delaware to purchase and exploit one land."

This company was incorporated for \$100,000 and operations on a big scale are contemplated. Whether the ore is to be shipped east or whether the smelting will be done in Texas has not been made known, but several efforts have been made in late years to build smelters on the Texas coast and the plans of the new company may contemplate blast furnaces in Texas."

"I am very deeply impressed with your city and its people," said H. H. Hiley, of Chicago, who is here gathering data for the Motor Age. "I have visited almost every city in this country and only a short time ago returned from France. You people have the appearance of refinement. Your men are courteous, and they are hustlers. Your women are the classiest I have ever seen, not even barring the beautiful women of France. El Paso is the most wide awake town in the west today, and I have been unable to discover any signs of poverty here."

## WORKING A FRAUD IN NAME OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS

G. P. Walker, secretary of lodge 192 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, has received word from the head officers of the organization that a man is representing himself as collecting funds for the Brotherhood and is "stinging" many business men in the country. He was last heard from in San Francisco, and Bakerfield, Calif. issued uniform blank receipts, but different names were given in each case to the receipts, which specified that the money received was for "a write up (or an ad) in our history."

"These men are impostors, for we are not publishing a history and have not authorized anyone to solicit for this or anything else," says the letter from the grand lodge to Mr. Walker. "The business and professional men in your vicinity should be promptly notified and asked to cooperate and assist in apprehending and convicting these men."

## WESTERN PACIFIC CASE IS LEFT WITH VAN FLEET

San Francisco, Calif., May 15.—The United States circuit court of appeals today virtually left it with Judge William Van Fleet of the first mortgage bonds of the Western Pacific railroad by refusing to compel him to certify to the higher court charges of discrimination brought by the Equitable Trust company of New York.

The trust company, trustee of the defaulted \$2,000,000 first mortgage bonds of the Western Pacific, some time ago charged Judge Van Fleet with bias and prejudice in Western Pacific matters.

## POLES IN CALIFORNIA WORK FOR FREE POLAND

Los Angeles, Cal., May 15.—A movement which its sponsors hope will result in the freeing of Poland is being here today as a result of a mass meeting held Sunday under the auspices of the Polish-American War Survivors' Relief League.

A resolution declaring that "Poland and the Polish nation shall be free and independent of allegiance, vassalage or obligation to any political or dependent power, doctrine, tradition, dictation or influence," was adopted. It was addressed to the nations of the world and international judges for peace and justice in the world and will be sent to the peace tribunal which will draw up terms at the close of the European war, it was said.

## BASEBALL GLOVES MISSING; THREE MEXICAN BOYS HELD

Held in connection with the theft of several baseball gloves from the Allen Arms company, 404 North Oregon street, early Sunday morning, three young Mexican boys, ranging in age from 10 to 14, are in the city jail. The boys, according to city detectives, had several new gloves and a baseball in their possession when taken into custody in the lower part of the city. Three of the gloves were identified by the Allen Arms company, as having been part of their stock. The boys will be turned over to Mrs. Emma Webster, county probation officer, for disposition of the case.

## Uncle Sam

A PATIENT man is Uncle Sam, as mild and gentle as a lamb. He takes no stock in useless scraps, in swapping swats with bawling chaps, in pulling hair and blacking eyes, just for the sake of exercise. But there will be a roundup vast, when Uncle Sam gets riled at last. Because he's patient and serene, and has a meek and tranquil mien, the wranglers sometimes think it safe his grave and reverend combs to chafe. They steal his dog and shoot his cat, and throw large dermicks at his hat; their foolishness still further goes, until at last they tweak his nose. Then Uncle Sam takes off his coat, and rolls his shirt-sleeves to his throat, spits on his hands and cracks his heels, and hollers till the welkin reel. And straightway, in a brace of shakes, he'll whip his weight in cats or snakes, as he has whipped them in the past, when Uncle Sam gets riled at last. You cannot always kick his shins, and think he'll wear forgiving green; his ribs you cannot always poke, and think he'll take it as a joke. To outer darkness you'll be cast, when Uncle Sam gets riled at last.

(Protected by the Adams Newspaper Service.)

WALT MASON.

## EL PASO HERALD

DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE, THAT NO GOOD CAUSE SHALL LACK A CHAMPION, AND THAT EVIL SHALL NOT THRIVE UNOPPOSED.

H. D. Slater, editor and controlling owner, has directed The Herald for 28 years. J. C. Wilmeth is Manager and G. A. Martin is News Editor.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS, AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION, AND AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS.

AN INDEPENDENT DAILY NEWSPAPER—The El Paso Herald was established in March, 1881. The El Paso Herald includes also, by absorption and succession, The Daily News, The Telegraph, The Telegram, The Tribune, The Graphic, The Sun, The Advertiser, The Independent, The Journal, The Republican, The Bulletin.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION—Daily Herald, per month, 60c; per year, \$7.00. Wednesday and Week-End issues will be mailed for \$2.00 per year.

THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION—Superior exclusive features and complete news report by Associated Press, United Wire and Special Correspondents covering Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Mexico, Washington, D. C., and New York. Entered at the Postoffice in El Paso, Texas, as second class matter.